

Appl. No.: 09/431,201
Amendment Dated December 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2003

YAO-4308US

Remarks/Arguments:

By this Amendment, applicants have cancelled claims 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 25.
Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 18-24, 26 and 27 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

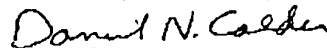
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 1, 2, 5-10, 18-24, 26 and 27 are allowed.

Claim Rejections Under Sections 112 and 103

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishi in view of Barr; claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rapps in view of Massa; claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki in view of Massa; claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki and Massa in view of Kitanishi; and claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki. Applicants respectfully submit that the Sections 112 and 103(a) rejections are moot in view of applicants' cancellation of claims 11, 13-16, and 25.

Based on the foregoing remarks and amendments, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5-10, 18-24, 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. No. 27,424
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/vj

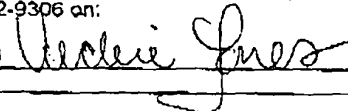
Dated: December 5, 2003

☒ P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed via facsimile (703) 872-9306 on:

December 5, 2003



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